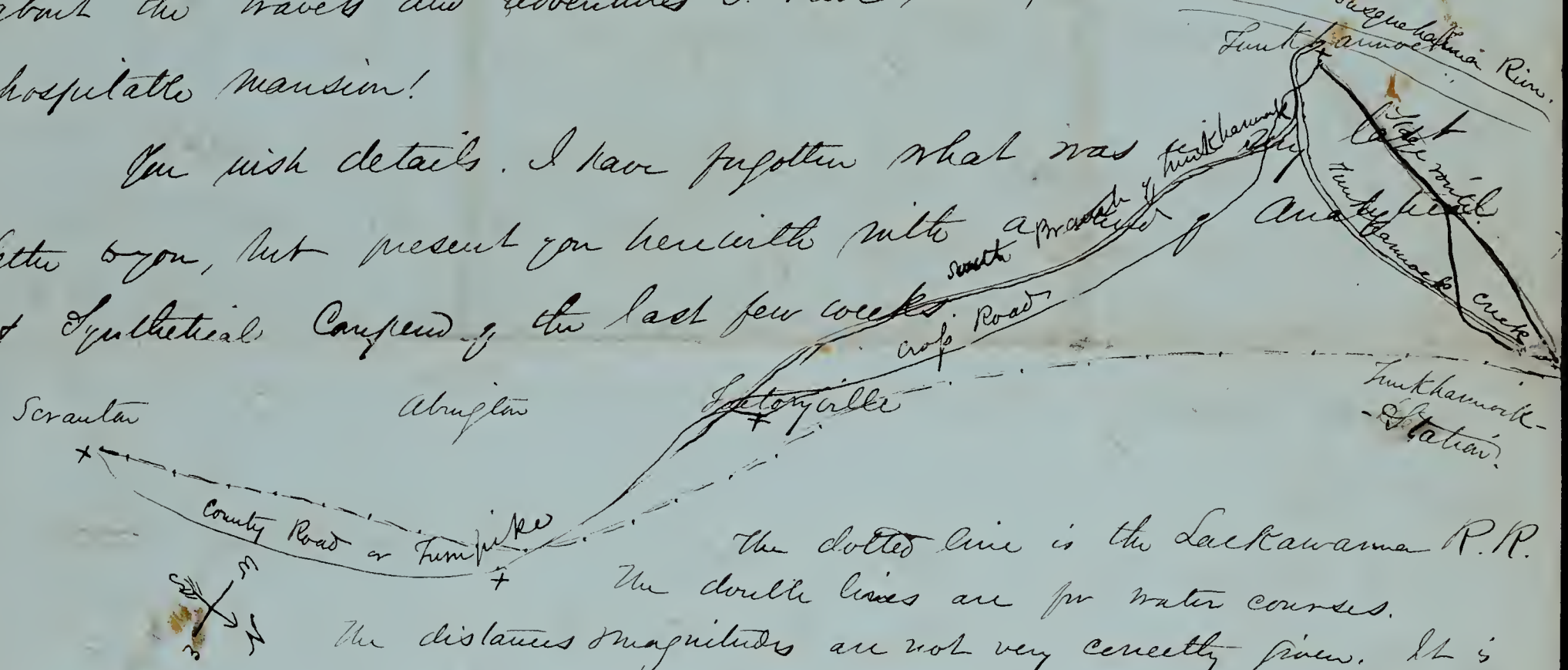
Waverly, Feb'ruary 2. 1852.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

My dear friend

How welcome your letter was more than I can say: it found me last Saturday morning just sat at my study upon the subject I designed to preach upon on Sabbath. How long I have desired to hear from you! How dear you all are to me! How precious is the memory of the past! How gladly I could sit down by your fireside (stove or register?) and spin a few yarns about the travels and adventures I have seen since I left your hospitable mansion!

You wish details. I have forgotten what was [illegible] letter to you, but present you herewith with a [illegible] & Synthetical Compend of the last few weeks.



The dotted line is the Lackawanna R.R.
The double lines are for water courses.
The distances & magnitudes are not very correctly given. It is 9½ miles from Scranton to Abington. 5 miles further to Factoryville. 10 miles from there to Tunkhannock by the Cross Road. There is a Station for Tunkhannock on the Railroad also 12 miles from the town by R. & connecting by a stage route. The South Branch is the smaller of the two, though I have represented larger on the map. (I know them. Jan 1st. Came up in the cars to Abington from Scranton. on Saturday 10th walked over by the cross road to Tunkhannock 15 miles, fording the South Branch. Returned on Monday, 10 miles in a sleigh to Factoryville, walked the remaining 5 to Abington. on Friday 16th went down to Scranton. on Saturday 17th took the cars to Tunkhannock Station, & rode in stage to Tunkhannock. On Monday

walked up an steep road to Tunkhannock Station 12 miles, & took the cars in the evening for Scranton. next day returned to Abington in sleigh. on Tuesday the 26th had occasion to go to Scranton again, rode down & walked back. this is the amount of my travels. now for my avocations. my trips to Scranton were to look for letters, to get books papers which I keep there, & to see Mitchell & other friends. my trips to Tunkhannock were to preach, as the pulpit in the Presbyterian Church is only supplied half the time. the first time I preached only one stated a little to the Sunday School. the second time I preached twice. this with a few calls on Saturday Monday was all I had to do in Tunkhannock.

As for the method of going there, I have a free pass on the cars: long walks benefit my health, give me a good chance to think. Fording the South Branch was a cool piece of business, but the water was only knee deep, not quite that, & only for ten feet across.

At Abington I first that I stayed at Mr. Nicholsons Jan 1 & 2d, 5 at Mrs. Fells in the village Jan 2d – 7th; again at Nicholson's from Jan 7th to 10th: (to Tunkhannock Jan 10 – 12;) Nicholson's, Jan 12 – 16: to Scranton & thence to Tunkhannock Jan 16 – 19;) Nicholson's Jan 20: Dr. Wheeler's in the village 21st – 24th; Mrs. Fells 25th – Feb. 1st.; & I am now at Nicholson's for a day or two, preparatory for another flight.

In this month I have preached
Jan 11. once in Tunkhannock
Jan 25. twice in Abington
Jan 4. 3 times in Abington.
Jan 18. twice in Tunkhannock
Feb. 1. twice in Abington.

Next Sabbath I expect to preach again in Tunkhannock & also the

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Sunday following. After that I have two weeks' appointment in Abington again.

July 6 & these sermons were new ones: a new Year's Sermon on the Barren Fig tree. on Christ our Intercessor. on the Nature & Benefits & Prayer; Enoch walking with God. on Overcoming the World. on the Valley & Dry Bones. All these were delivered in Abington, [illegible] this month have been delivered without notes.

Last week I had a Temperance Address & deliver. I found on Sunday I had been picked out for the purpose the night before by the Sons & Temperance at their meeting: & Wednesday was the day appointed. On Monday I went about to get excused, but could not accomplish it. "I had never made a Temperance Speech; I had never even heard one; I had two new Sermons to prepare for this coming Sabbath." But I found there was no escape. If course I might have declined absolutely, but it did not seem best. So & took I went: & on Tuesday went down to Scranton for some documents. Fortunately I am note a Temperance Prize Essay — which did not take the prize — & the subject was not altogether a foreign one. By Wednesday night we made our maiden Temperance Speech without Mss. 3/4 & an hour in length: had a goodly number out, had a little choir & juveniles, boys & girls, on the ground with some Temperance glees & songs which were interspersed refreshingly at intervals & relieve the speechifying. Much speech making followed mine, & we wound up with some resolutions, & the appointment & a Committee, as a matter & course. The vote was taken (standing) on the Maine law, & carried in favor & it unanimously, no one

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having appearance enough to show his colors against it by raising
in full face of everybody to see: a few who were standing around
the stove made all speed to get down low, when the negative
was put. So went off our meeting. It made a busy week
for me. I breathed freely when the last service on Sabbath
evening was ended: & took today to write a letter home, & this
letter begun.

Besides these two letters I have written some four or five others
in the month, two of them long business letters, one to father on
the Missionary question — about my going; & one to the Board of Miss.
Miss. describing my field, & setting forth its importance. Abington
is the name of a large, populous, & prosperous township in the
Southwestern
Northern part of Luzerne Co. Abington Centre is the village which
has an Academy, two churches, two or three blacksmith shops, some
shoemakers', tailor shops, & a round half a dozen grocery stores, with
the help of a pretty poor concern of a tavern, claims to be the
business centre, the emporium & metropolis of this & one or two ad-
joining townships. It is on a mail route, on which the mail is
carried three times a week in each direction, north. South. The
Post Office name was Abington Centre until recently, when it
was changed to Waverly. The Lackawanna R.R. has a station
of the same name near by, about as far as from Princeton
to the New Jersey R.R.

When I obtained license from the Luzerne Presbytery to preach within
their bounds, Mr. Edmunds was preaching at Abington Centre & Waverly

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Your letter gives me the only intelligence I have received from Princeton except through the papers. The project of Gas-lighting is then in actual course of execution? Well done! Poor Billy – be not hard upon him – we know his failing of old – he does not write letters with a willing mind, and so not a scratch of his pen has pricked my dear piece I have been in those "delectable mountains." You need not say anything of him about it. I have not set him a good example in the matter, not having written of him myself. Ergo, he might retort the accusation of being so illiterate.

I am glad to hear of him and his employments & should be still more glad to hear from (Yours) him. The news from home is particularly acceptable; I have seen a little of the same Mercantile Library excitement in the columns of the Courier & else the Express. At one time there were four different nomination tickets, one under the other in the same column; & in the column adjoining, two directly contradictory "cards" about Saml P. Tilton as nominee for the Presidency. Hastings I suppose & hope continues undisturbed in his post of honor & usefulness.

Every word about Clermont is precious.

I am very much interested in what you say about Henry. Let us still pray for him, for praying breath is never spent in vain. Here I must stop, my paper & my time being both exhausted, before the arrears of chat and talk are brought up.

Love to Mrs. Torrey – whose improved health it delights me to hear of, – and to the Girls, & Baste. I suppose I shall find Herby grown wonderfully. Ever cordially yours.

Reuben Tourjee

Dr. Jno. Torrey.

every alternate Sabbath, but the arrangement was inconvenient, and for other reasons he desired to be released from the necessity of attending to this station. They sent me here to take his place. The particulars of the state of the church here would delay me too long at present, as I am about to start Monday morning off again. You see I preach here two Sabbaths consecutively and then elsewhere the next two. The reason is that the New School Presbytery of Montrose sends a man here on the intervening Sabbaths, for whom I leave the coast clear.

PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY LIBRARY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

The Presbytery of Luzerne, in order to defray my expenses while laboring here, procured for me a Commission of $100. from the Board of a year Domestic Missions. I have made no use of this yet; but shall probably be obliged to draw a part of it before I am through. We have no church organized here, though there are several members of various Presbyterian churches (O.S.) in the place & neighborhood. My congregations are made up of all denominations, as there is no other preaching at the same hours. The audience is reasonably large for a small county village; & as they are plain folks for the most part, it suits them to hear extempore preaching. You see I have no expense for boarding. I stay with friends. I hope they will not feel tired of the tax upon their hospitality; if they do I am sure their reluctance to meet it could not reasonably be greater than my own unwillingness to inflict it. But there is no help for that yet.

Elmira. Sept. 14. 1852.

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My dear friend

I missed you again the last time I called, and will try to make it up in part by writing. I do not expect to visit the city again for perhaps two weeks; next week I wish to make the visit to Scranton &c. which I was prevented from accomplishing last week. Mitchell has just written, recovering from a severe illness, at Scranton. His church is to be dedicated the 19th inst – next Sunday.

I am expecting to start for the Indian Country early next month, day not yet known. You are familiar with the situation of St. London on the Red River – & indeed it

is on any of the maps. Spencer Academy is some twelve or fifteen miles to the north of it. I only go for the winter, being altogether uncertain how the climate of that country will suit me, & just at this time there is a vacancy in the corps of teachers at that institution which cannot otherwise be filled until May. I can fill the gap probably. There are upwards of 120 boys & young men all Choctaws at the Academy; I shall probably have the care & instruction of some 25 or 30. But I can give you no particulars until I have been on the ground. The institution is well endowed by the Indians out of their annuities. They have appropriated $6.000 a year; the U.S. government adds

$2000 a year from the Civilization fund, and the Presbn. Board (For. Miss.) add another $2000 — making $10,000 per ann. The Academy (I am told) is in a flourishing state & regarded with the highest interest & pride by the tribe, although at its establishment there was violent opposition. It is the largest of a group of half a dozen similar schools wh. were commenced at the same time by act of the Indian Council & the control of them placed in the hands of the different Miss'y Societies. — By the way don't you want a botanical correspondent from the Prairies of the Red River? And pray tell me what Botanical text book I, being new & uninitiated, am to use in ascertaining the

"Name, surname, and family" of those Southern plants.

As it will be winter, probably I shall not have much chance to botanize, my lands will very likely be full besides. I forbear all reflections & speculations on this new move for the present, until I know more of the nature of the situation, and the prospects of my remaining.

Please to give my love to Mrs. Torrey & the rest of the family. I owe Eliza a letter, which I shall probably have the satisfaction of writing this week.

If it is convenient for you to send me the list of plants you selected from my brothers list, I will enclose it immediately. I am with sincere regard

Your warm friend

as ever

Reuben Sawin

Prof. Jno. Torrey